

REMARKS

The present Amendment amends claims 5-7 and 9, and cancels claim 11.

Therefore, the present application has pending claims 5-7 and 9.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner indicated that claims 5-7 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten to include all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In response to the objection to claims 5-7, Applicants have amended claims 5 and 6 to include the limitations of independent claim 11, and have amended claim 9 to be dependent on claim 5. Therefore, claims 5-7 and 9 are in condition for allowance.

35 U.S.C. §102 Rejections

Claim 11 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No 4,808,077 to Kan et al. ("Kan"). As previously indicated, claim 11 was canceled. Therefore, this rejection regarding claim 11 is rendered moot.

35 U.S.C. §103 Rejections

Claim 9 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kan in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,712,587 to Gerhardt et al. ("Gerhardt"). Claim 9, as amended, is dependent on allowable claim 5. Therefore, claim 9 is allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 5.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that claims 5-7 and 9 are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, early allowance of claims 5-7 and 9 is respectfully requested.

To the extent necessary, the applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, or credit any overpayment of fees, to the deposit account of BRUNDIDGE & STANGER, P.C., Deposit Account No. 50-4888 (referencing Attorney Docket No. 500.43232X00).

Respectfully submitted,

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